

if access is unauthorized, placing the telephone personal communications system off hook and then hanging up so as to prevent access to the telephone personal communications system;
and

if access is authorized, enabling a connection to the telephone personal communications system.

8. (Once Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein [the step of] preprogramming further comprises [the step of] programming a list of names of authorized caller names.

9. (Once Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein [the step of] preprogramming further comprises [the step of] programming a list of authorized caller telephone numbers.

10. (Once Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein [the step of] preprogramming further comprises [the step of] programming a list of authorized times of day to call.

11. (Once Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein [the step of] preprogramming further comprises [the step of] programming a list of authorized days to call.

12. (Once Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein [the step of] preprogramming further comprises [the step of] programming a list of authorized caller names, days and times of day to call.

13. (Once Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein [the step of] preprogramming further comprises [the step of] programming a list of authorized caller telephone numbers, days and times of day to call.

14. (Once Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein [the step of] preprogramming further comprises [the step of] programming a list of unauthorized caller names.

15. (Once Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein [the step of] preprogramming further comprises [the step of] programming a list of unauthorized caller numbers.

16. (Once Amended) A personal communications system interface[, connected to a telephone line[, for screening incoming telephone calls to personal communications system electronics], the [internal] personal communications system interface comprising:

a telephone input port for receiving telephone signals into the personal communications system interface;

a ring detector, connected to the telephone input port, for detecting incoming calls;

an off-hook circuit connected to the telephone input port, for placing the telephone input port in an off-hook condition;

[a dc holding circuit;]

a caller identification information decoder, connected to the telephone input port through the off-hook circuit, for decoding caller identification information;

[a multiplexer;]

a controller, connected to the ring detector, off-hook circuit, and caller identification information decoder, for comparing the caller identification information to an access matrix for identification purposes; and

a memory device, connected to the controller, for storing the access matrix, wherein the controller handles calls based on the caller identification information decoded by the caller identification information decoder and information in the access matrix, wherein if the controller operates to detect an unauthorized caller, then the controller places the telephone input port off-hook and then hangs up on the unauthorized caller before the unauthorized caller is able to access the personal communications system interface.

17. (Once Amended) The [apparatus] system interface of claim 16 wherein the controller is a processor.

18. (Once Amended) The [apparatus] system interface of claim 16 wherein the controller is combinational logic.

19. (Once Amended) A personal communications system interface, connected to a telephone line, for screening incoming telephone calls to personal communications system electronics, the [internal] personal communications system interface comprising:

a telephone input port for receiving telephone signals into the personal communications system interface;

a ring detector, connected to the telephone input port, for detecting an incoming call;
an off-hook circuit, connected to the telephone input port, for connecting the personal communications system interface to the telephone line;

a dc holding circuit, connected to the off-hook circuit and the input port, for maintaining a connection with incoming telephone calls;

a decoder for decoding caller identification information and personal communications system data;

a multiplexer, connecting the decoder to the telephone input port and the dc holding circuit, for selecting telephone signals from the telephone input port for caller identification information decoding and from the dc holding circuit for personal communications system data decoding;

a controller, connected to the ring detector, off-hook circuit, dc holding circuit, multiplexer, and decoder, for controlling the internal personal communications system interface and for comparing caller identification to an access matrix for authorization purposes, wherein if the controller detects an unauthorized caller, then the controller places the telephone input port